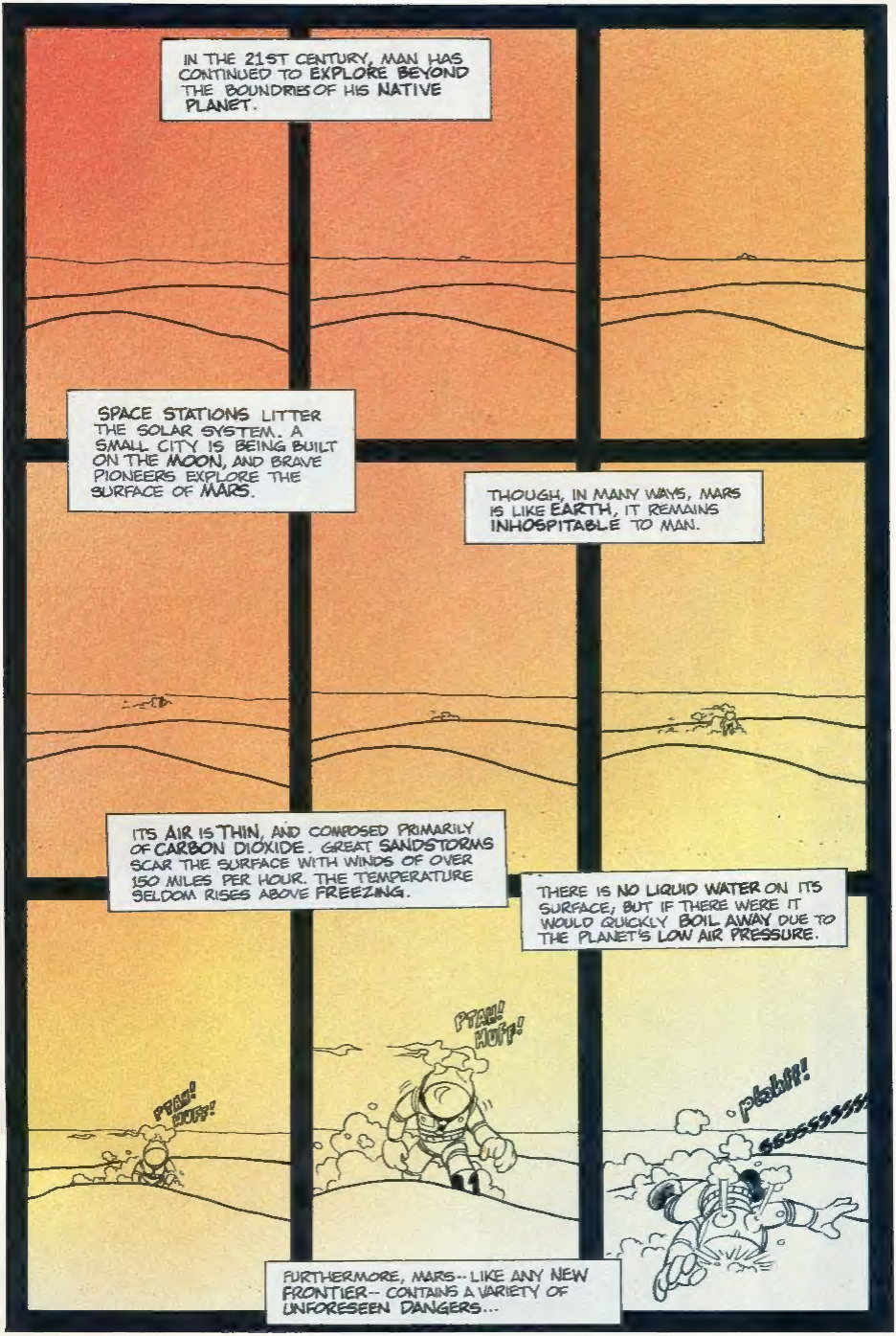
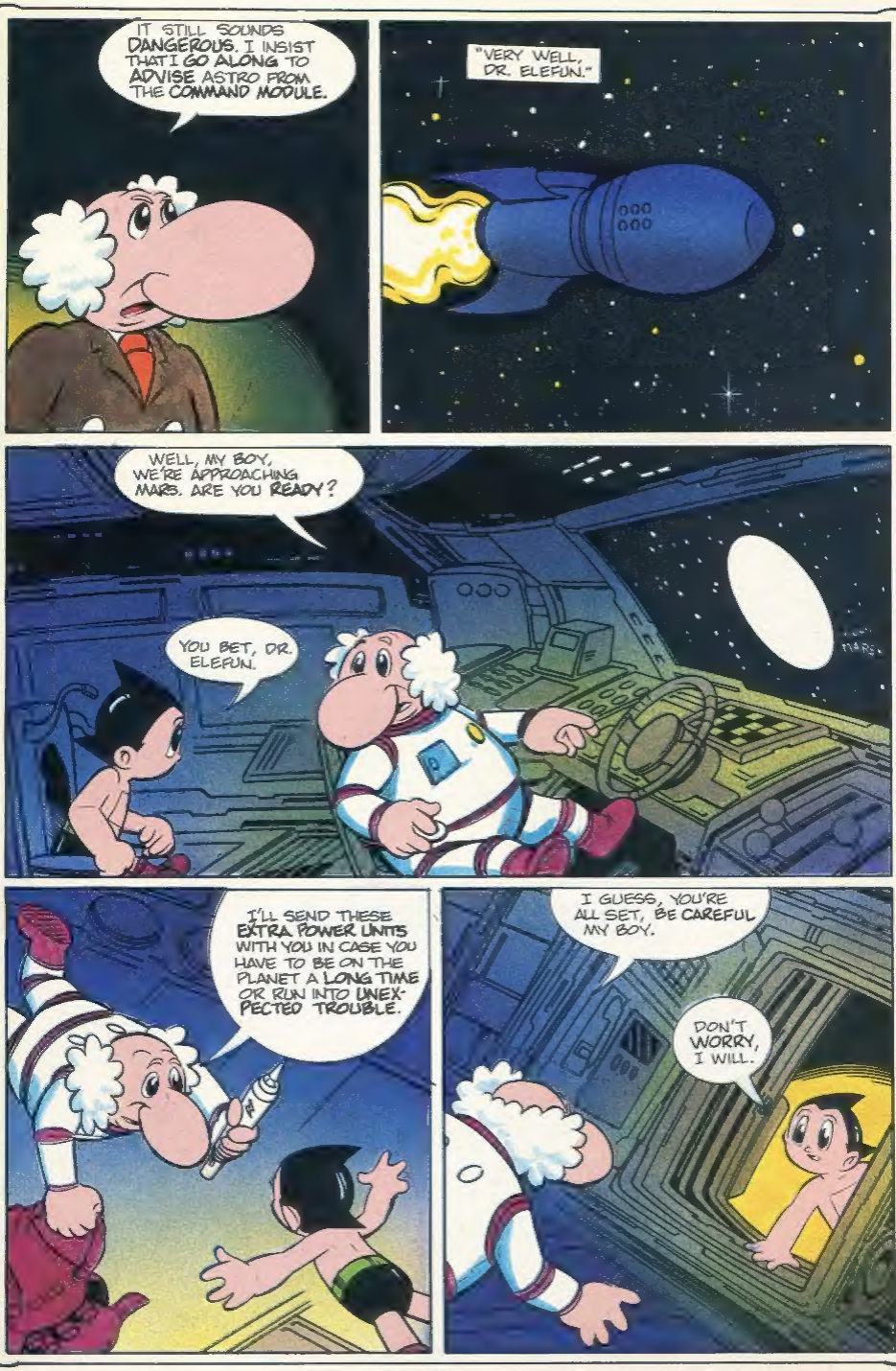
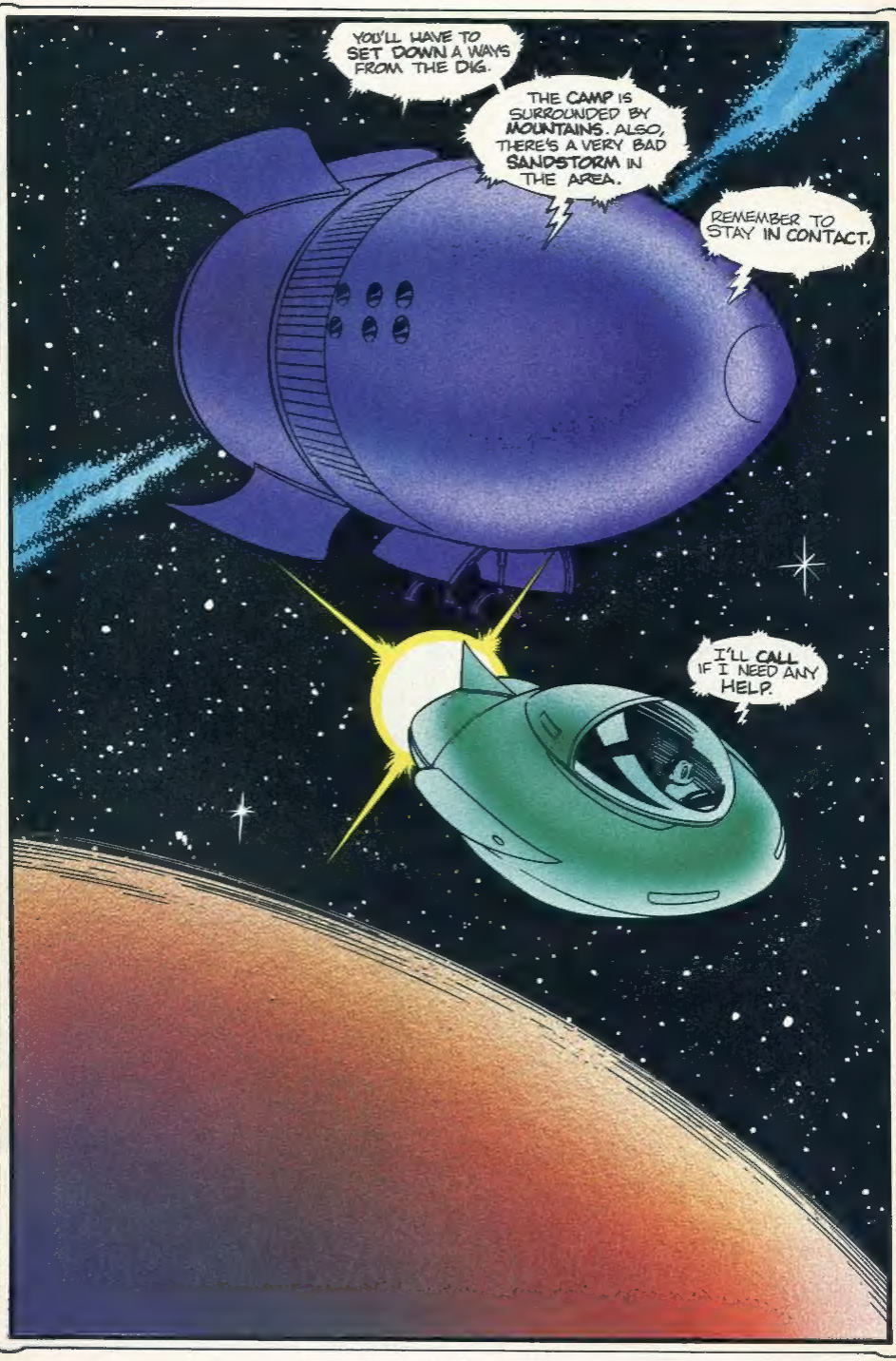
FULL COLOR GIANT PIN-UP IN EVERY ISSUE!
THE · ORIGINAL
ASTRO BOY
20
JUN
$1.75
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

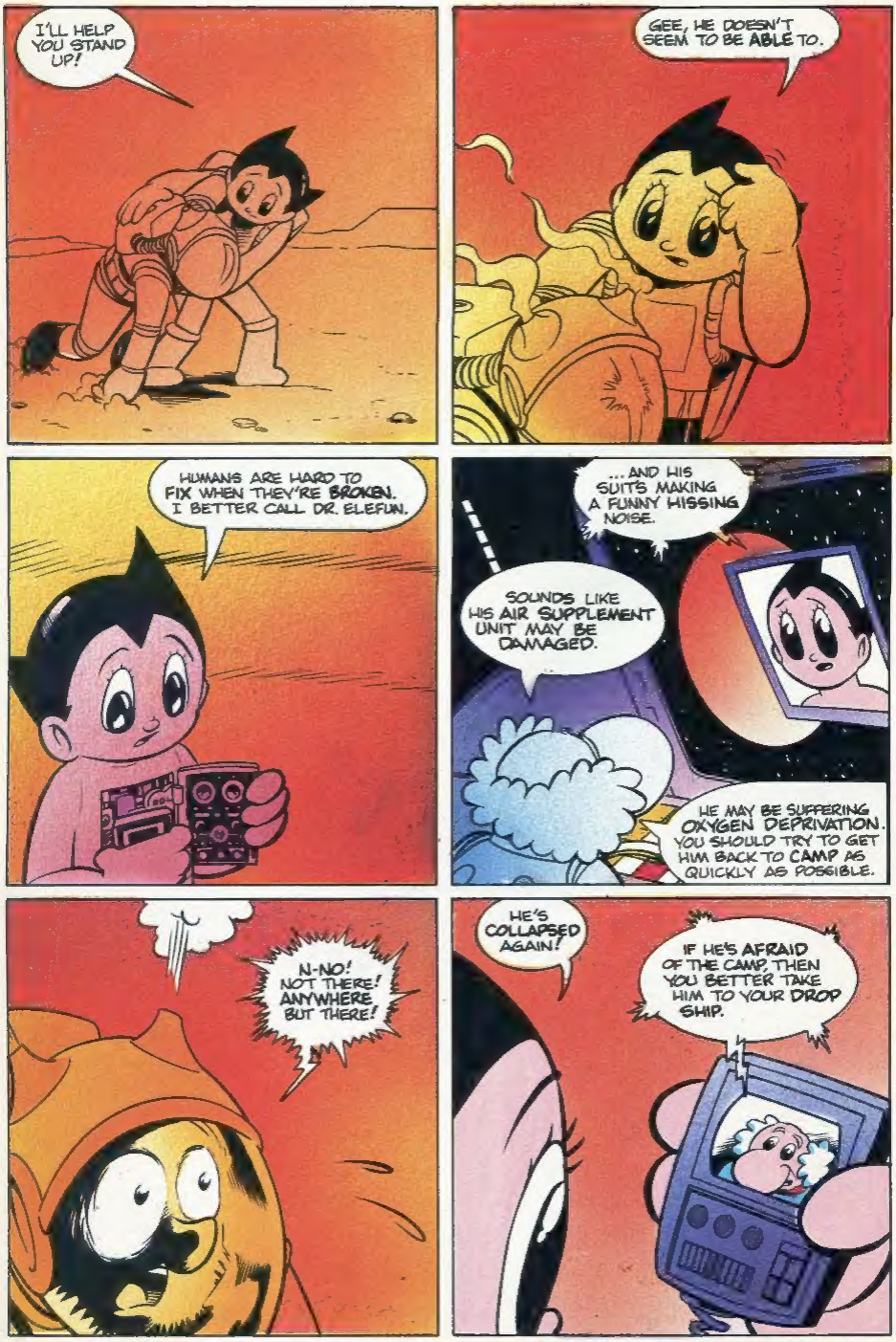

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, MAN HAS CONTINUED TO EXPLORE BEYOND THE BOUNDRIES OF HIS NATIVE PLANET.
SPACE STATIONS LITTER THE SOLAR SYSTEM. A SMALL CITY IS BEING BUILT ON THE MOON, AND BRAVE PIONEERS EXPLORE THE SURFACE OF MARS.
THOUGH, IN MANY WAYS, MARS IS LIKE EARTH, IT REMAINS INHOSPITABLE TO MAN.
ITS AIR IS THIN, AND COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF CARBON DIOXIDE. GREAT SANDSTORMS SCAR THE SURFACE WITH WINDS OF OVER 150 MILES PER HOUR. THE TEMPERATURE SELDOM RISES ABOVE FREEZING.
THERE IS NO LIQUID WATER ON ITS SURFACE; BUT IF THERE WERE IT WOULD QUICKLY BOIL AWAY DUE TO THE PLANET'S LOW AIR PRESSURE.
PTAH! HUFF!
PTAH! HUFF!
pshhh!
FURTHERMORE, MARS-- LIKE ANY NEW FRONTIER-- CONTAINS A VARIETY OF UNFORESEEN DANGERS...

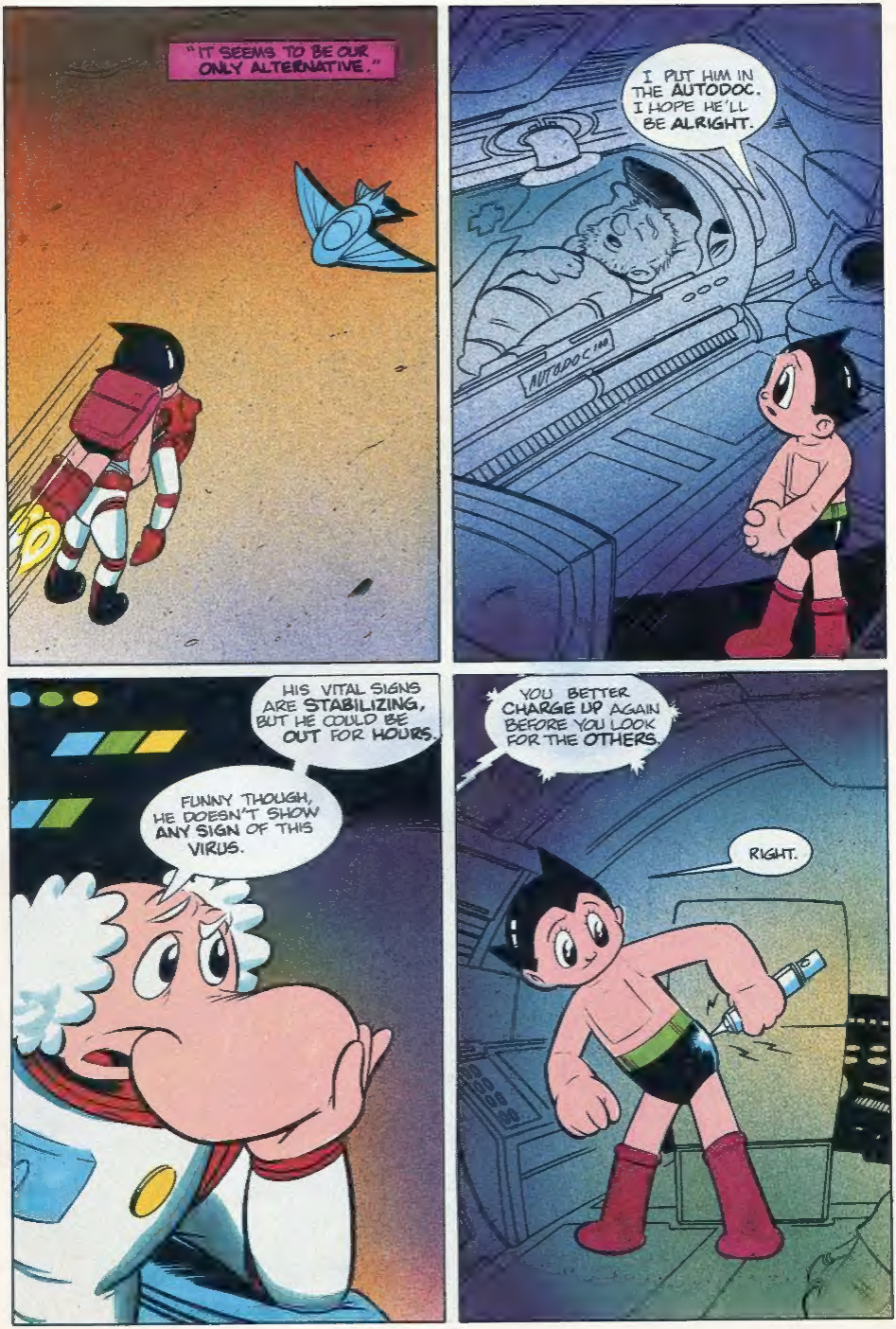
THE LOST CITY OF MARS
GOSH, MISTER, ARE YOU OKAY?
WRITTEN BY STEPHEN D. SULLIVAN
DRAWN BY BRIAN THOMAS
COLORED BY JORGE PACHECO
LETTERED BY DAN NAKROSIS
EDITED BY KATHERINE LLEWELLYN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TONY CAPUTO

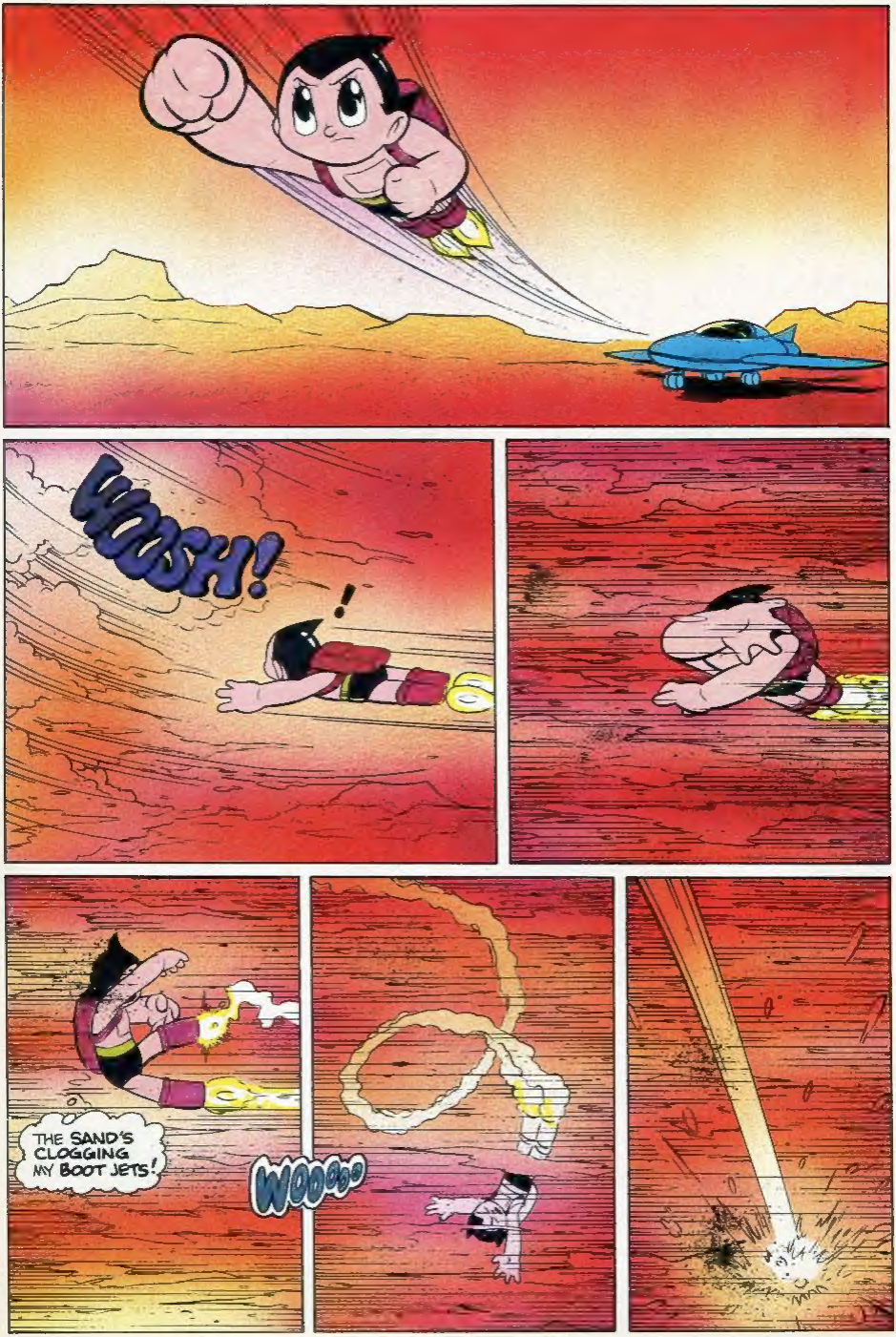
HOW ARE YOU DOING, MY BOY?
GREAT! MY SCIENCE PROJECT ON THE EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETISM ON MEMORY STORAGE SYSTEMS IS NEARLY COMPLETE!
THAT SOUNDS... UMM... INTERESTING. BUT ARE YOU SURE THAT YOUR CLASSMATES WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE IN...
BEEP! BEEP!
EH? THAT'S A TOP PRIORITY SIGNAL.
CAPTAIN DELTA!
ASTRO! GLAD YOU'RE THERE--THIS CONCERNS YOU, TOO.
BUT I'VE BEEN PROMOTED. I'M COMMANDER DELTA, NOW.
CONGRATULATIONS, COMMANDER. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
DESPERATE, I'M AFRAID.
A DISTRESS CHANNEL MESSAGE HAS COME IN FROM OUR EXPERIMENTAL ARCHEOLOGICAL BASE ON MARS. HERE'S A SAMPLE...
ZZZT!... LIKE A VIRUS... OUT OF CONTROL! VERY... ZZZT!... ANGEROUS!... RECOMMEND... FZZT!
THEN WE LOST CONTACT.
WE DON'T WANT TO EXPOSE A HUMAN RESCUE TEAM TO THE CONTAGION, BUT IT SHOULD BE SAFE FOR YOU, ASTRO BOY.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

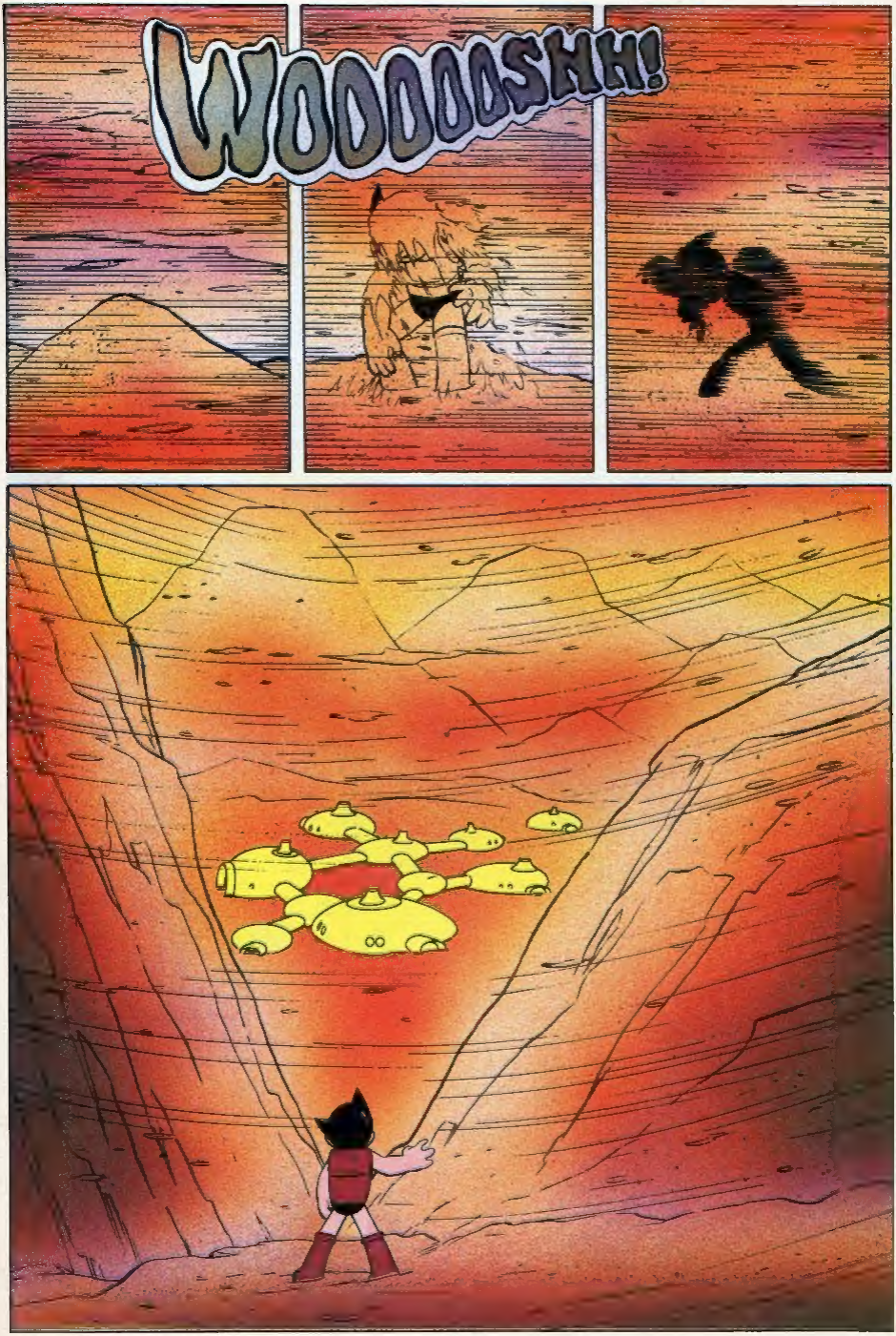

IT STILL SOUNDS DANGEROUS. I INSIST THAT I GO ALONG TO ADVISE ASTRO FROM THE COMMAND MODULE.
"VERY WELL, DR. ELEFUN."
WELL, MY BOY, WE'RE APPROACHING MARS. ARE YOU READY?
YOU BET, DR. ELEFUN.
I'LL SEND THESE EXTRA POWER UNITS WITH YOU IN CASE YOU HAVE TO BE ON THE PLANET A LONG TIME OR RUN INTO UNEXPECTED TROUBLE.
I GUESS, YOU'RE ALL SET, BE CAREFUL MY BOY.
DON'T WORRY, I WILL.

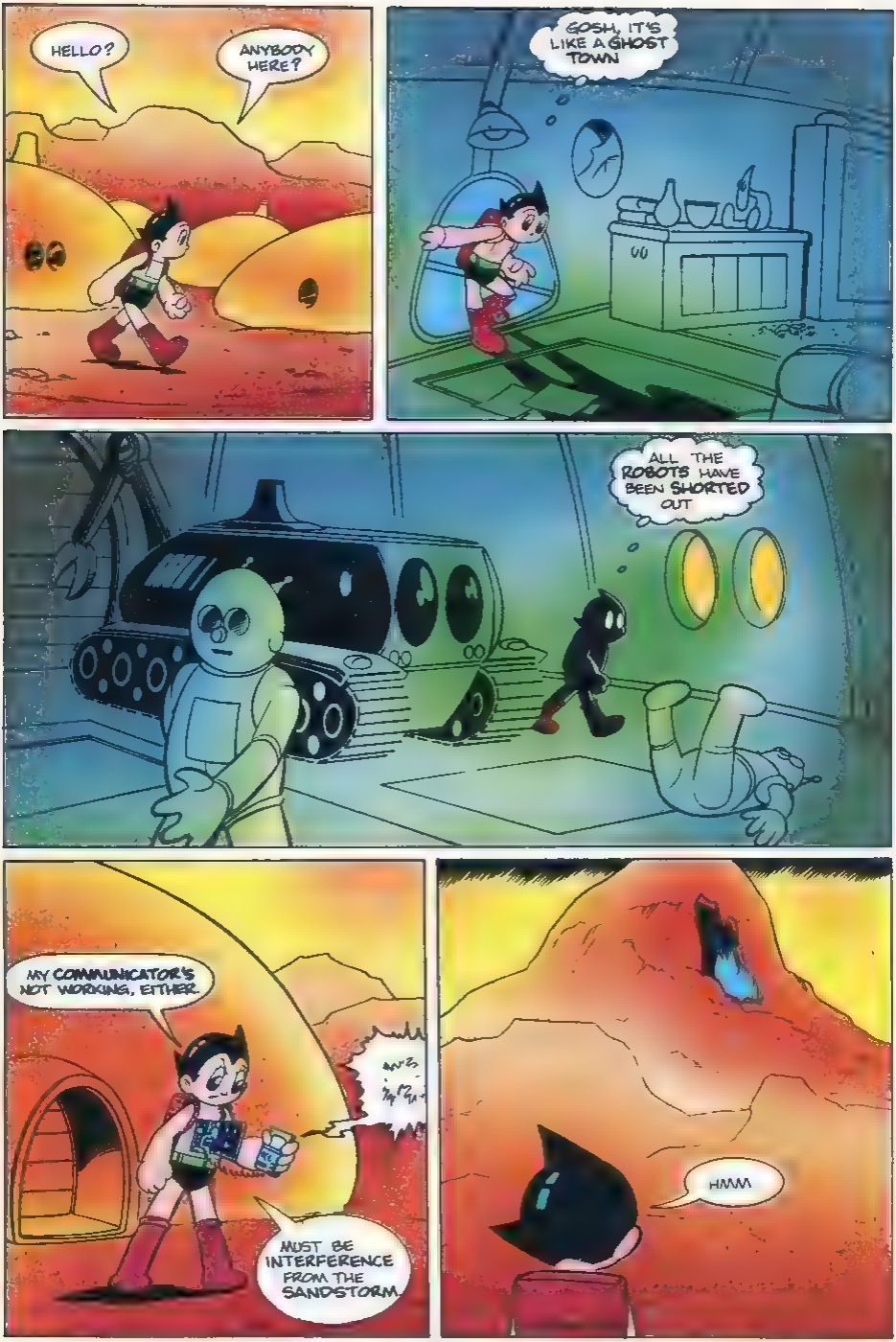

YOU'LL HAVE TO SET DOWN A WAYS FROM THE DIG.
THE CAMP IS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS. ALSO, THERE'S A VERY BAD SANDSTORM IN THE AREA.
REMEMBER TO STAY IN CONTACT.
I'LL CALL IF I NEED ANY HELP.

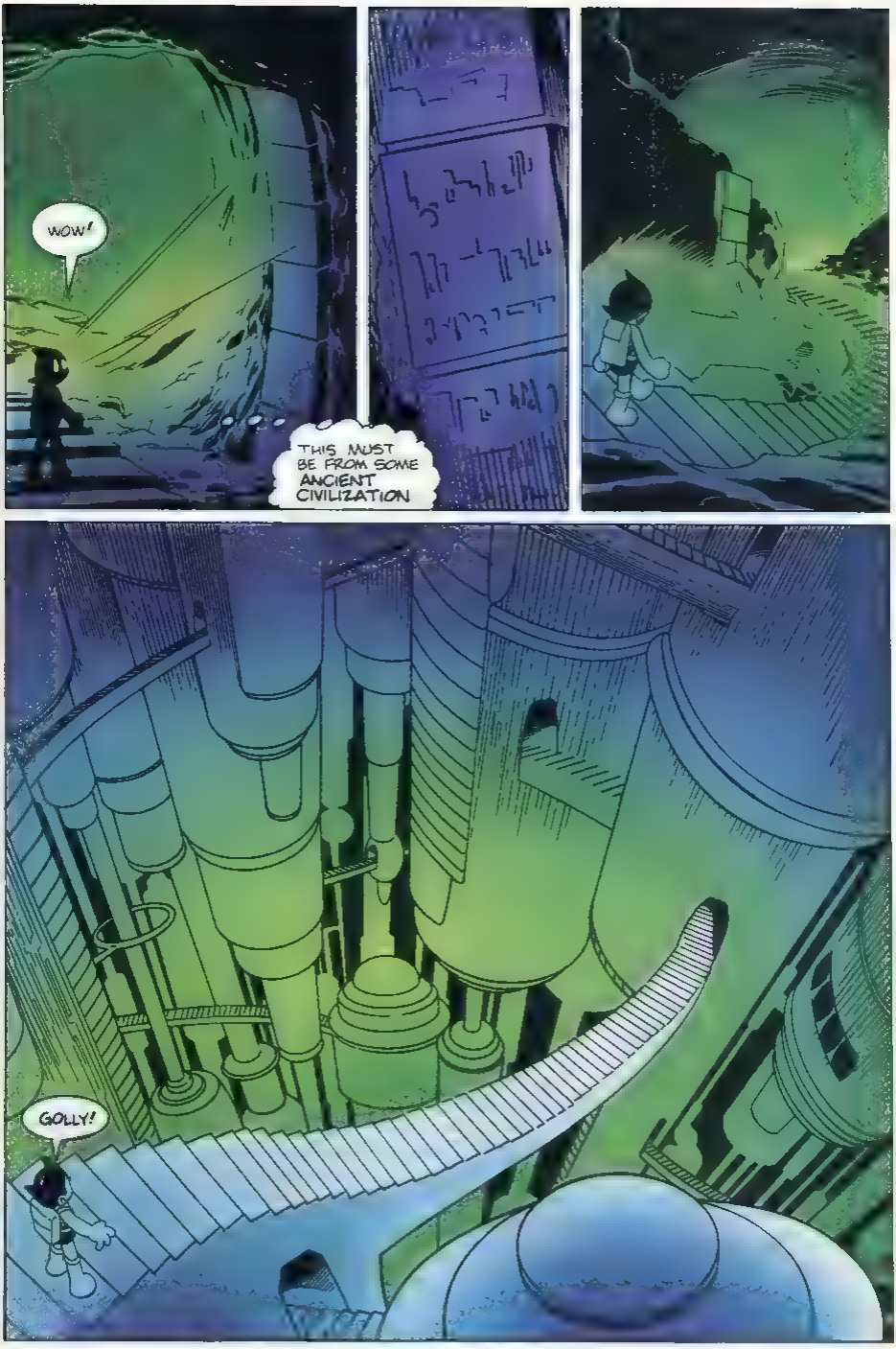

I'LL HELP YOU STAND UP!
GEE, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO.
HUMANS ARE HARD TO FIX WHEN THEY'RE BROKEN. I BETTER CALL DR. ELEFUN.
...AND HIS SUITS MAKING A FUNNY HISSING NOISE.
SOUNDS LIKE HIS AIR SUPPLEMENT UNIT MAY BE DAMAGED.
HE MAY BE SUFFERING OXYGEN DEPRIVATION. YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET HIM BACK TO CAMP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
N-NO! NOT THERE! ANYWHERE BUT THERE!
HE'S COLLAPSED AGAIN!
IF HE'S AFRAID OF THE CAMP, THEN YOU BETTER TAKE HIM TO YOUR DROP SHIP.


"IT SEEMS TO BE OUR ONLY ALTERNATIVE."
I PUT HIM IN THE AUTODOC. I HOPE HE'LL BE ALRIGHT.
AUTODOC
HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE STABILIZING, BUT HE COULD BE OUT FOR HOURS.
FUNNY THOUGH, HE DOESN'T SHOW ANY SIGN OF THIS VIRUS.
YOU BETTER CHARGE UP AGAIN BEFORE YOU LOOK FOR THE OTHERS.
RIGHT.


WOOSH!
!
THE SAND'S CLOGGING MY BOOT JETS!
WOOOO

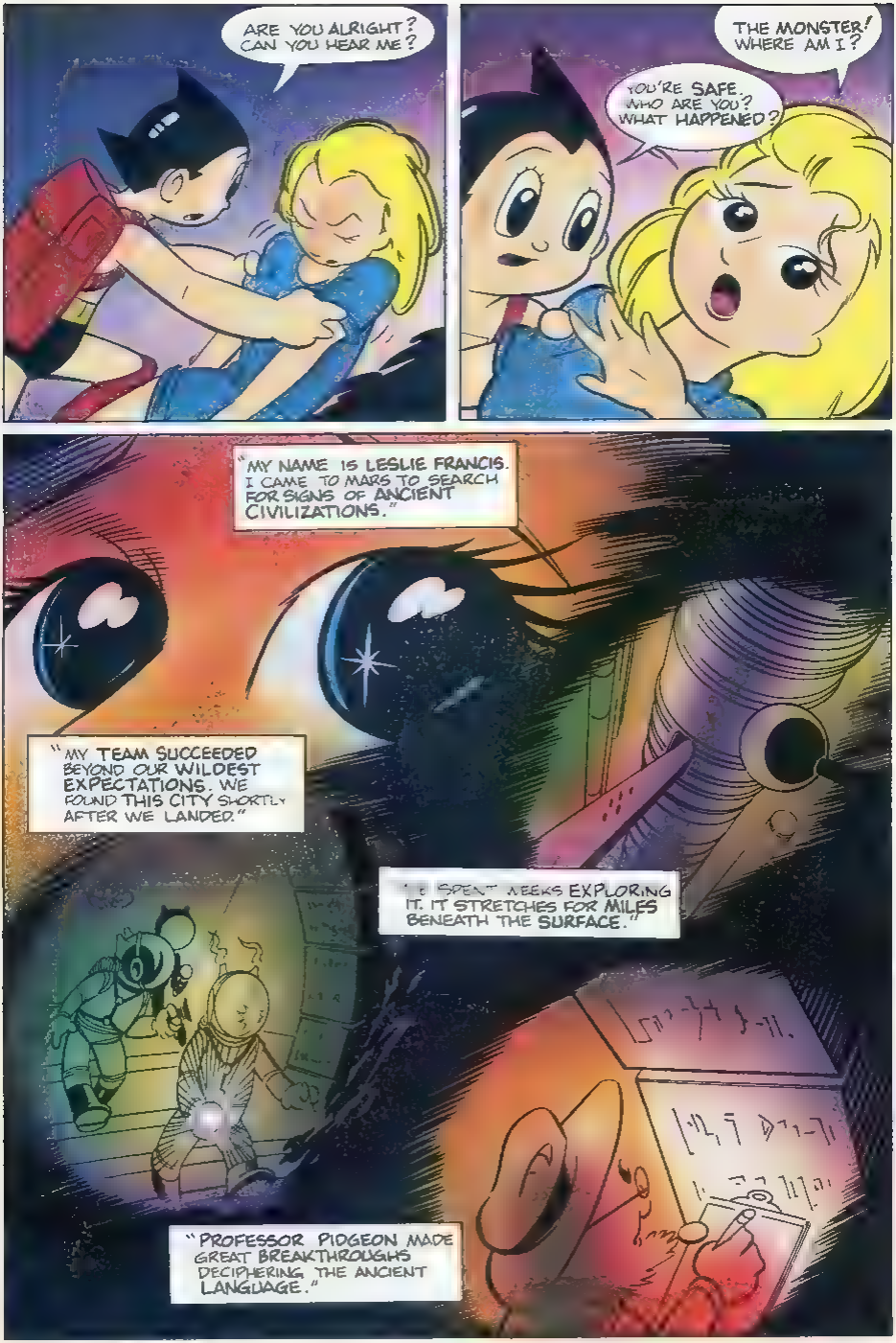

WOOOOOSHH!

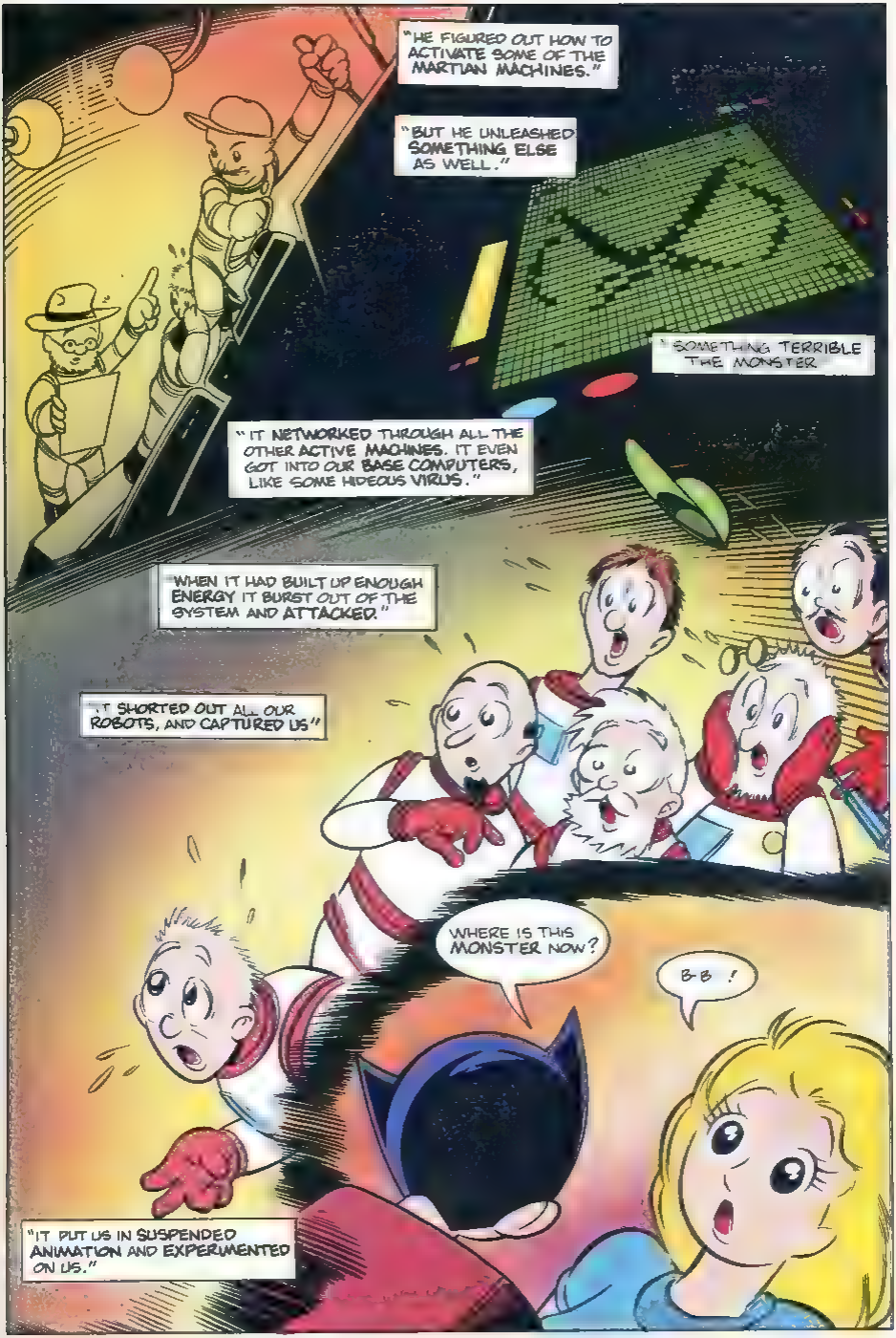

HELLO?
ANYBODY HERE?
GOSH, IT'S LIKE A GHOST TOWN
ALL THE ROBOTS HAVE BEEN SHORTED OUT
MY COMMUNICATOR'S NOT WORKING, EITHER.
MUST BE INTERFERENCE FROM THE SANDSTORM
HMM


WOW!
THIS MUST BE FROM SOME ANCIENT CIVILIZATION
GOLLY!

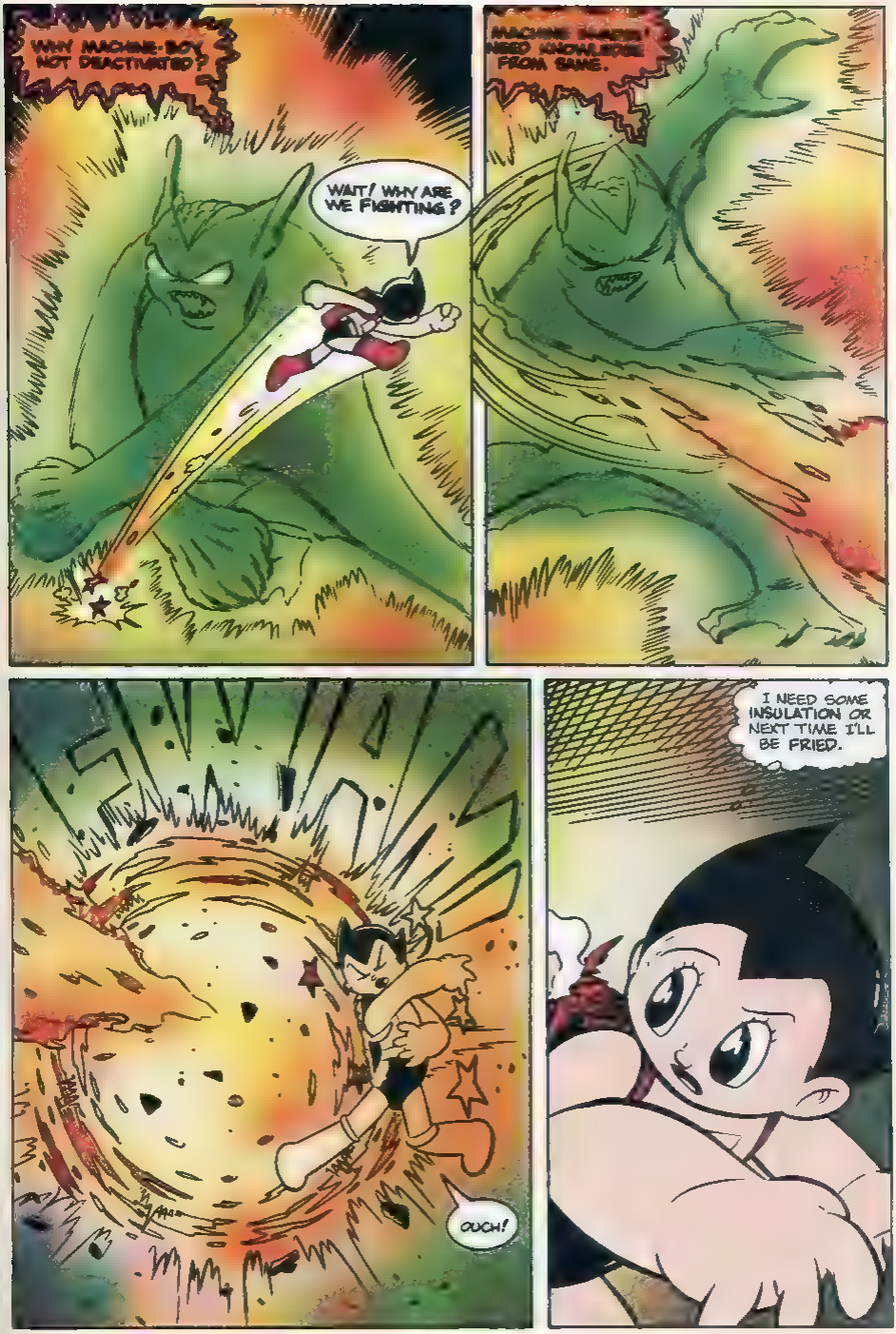
A FORCE FIELD!
THE SCIENTISTS MUST HAVE PUT IT HERE TO KEEP THE AIR IN.
BUT WHERE COULD THEY BE? THIS PLACE IS HUGE!
THE SAND'S CLOGGING MY BOOT JETS!
WHAT'S THAT?
SOUNDS LIKE MACHINERY

IT'S COMING FROM THIS DIRECTION.
THE MISSING ARCHEOLOGISTS!
I BETTER GET THEM OUT I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY.
GOSH!

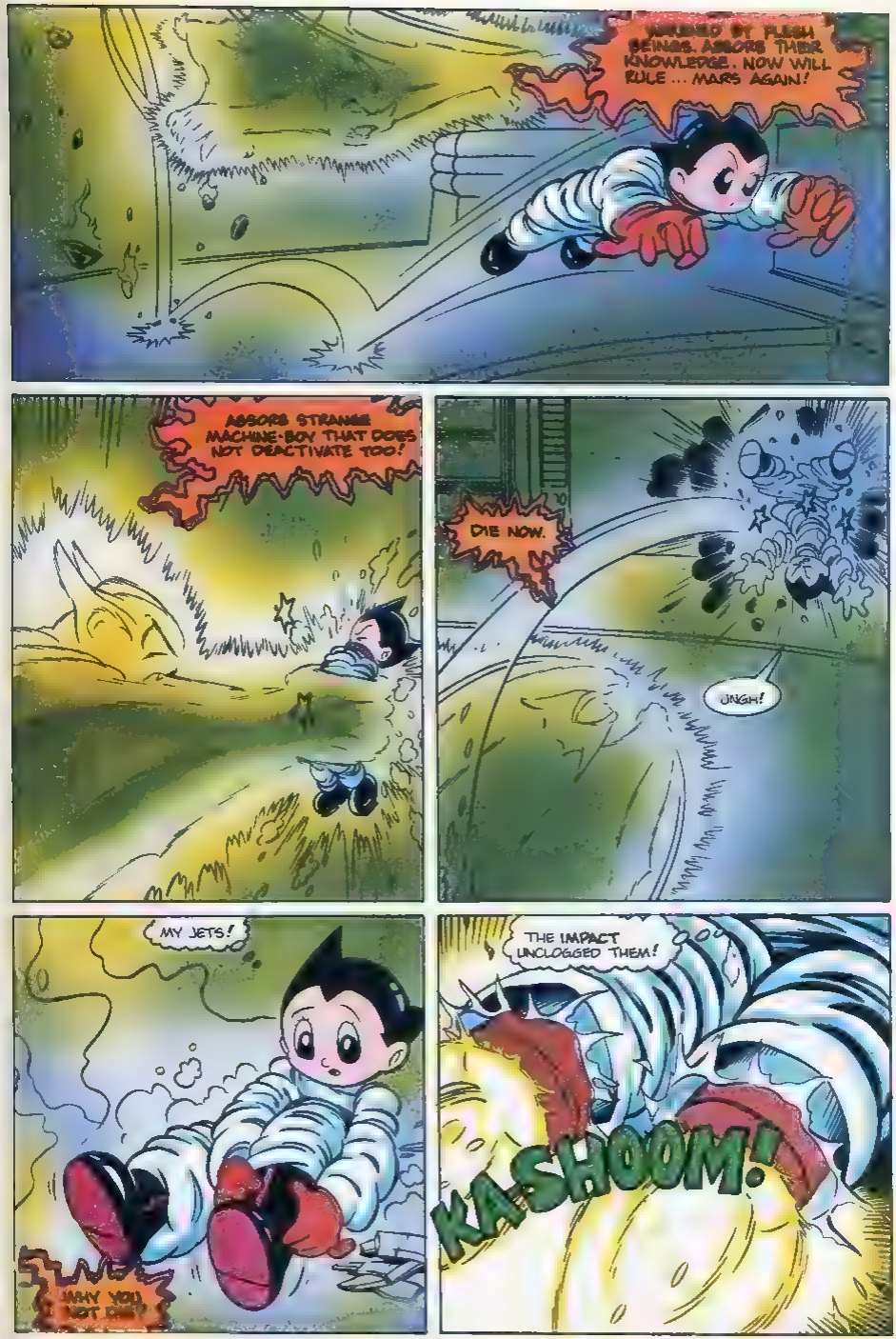

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THE MONSTER! WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE SAFE. WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?
"MY NAME IS LESLIE FRANCIS. I CAME TO MARS TO SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS."
"MY TEAM SUCCEEDED BEYOND OUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS. WE FOUND THIS CITY SHORTLY AFTER WE LANDED."
"I SPENT WEEKS EXPLORING IT. IT STRETCHES FOR MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE."
"PROFESSOR PIDGEON MADE GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS DECIPHERING THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE."

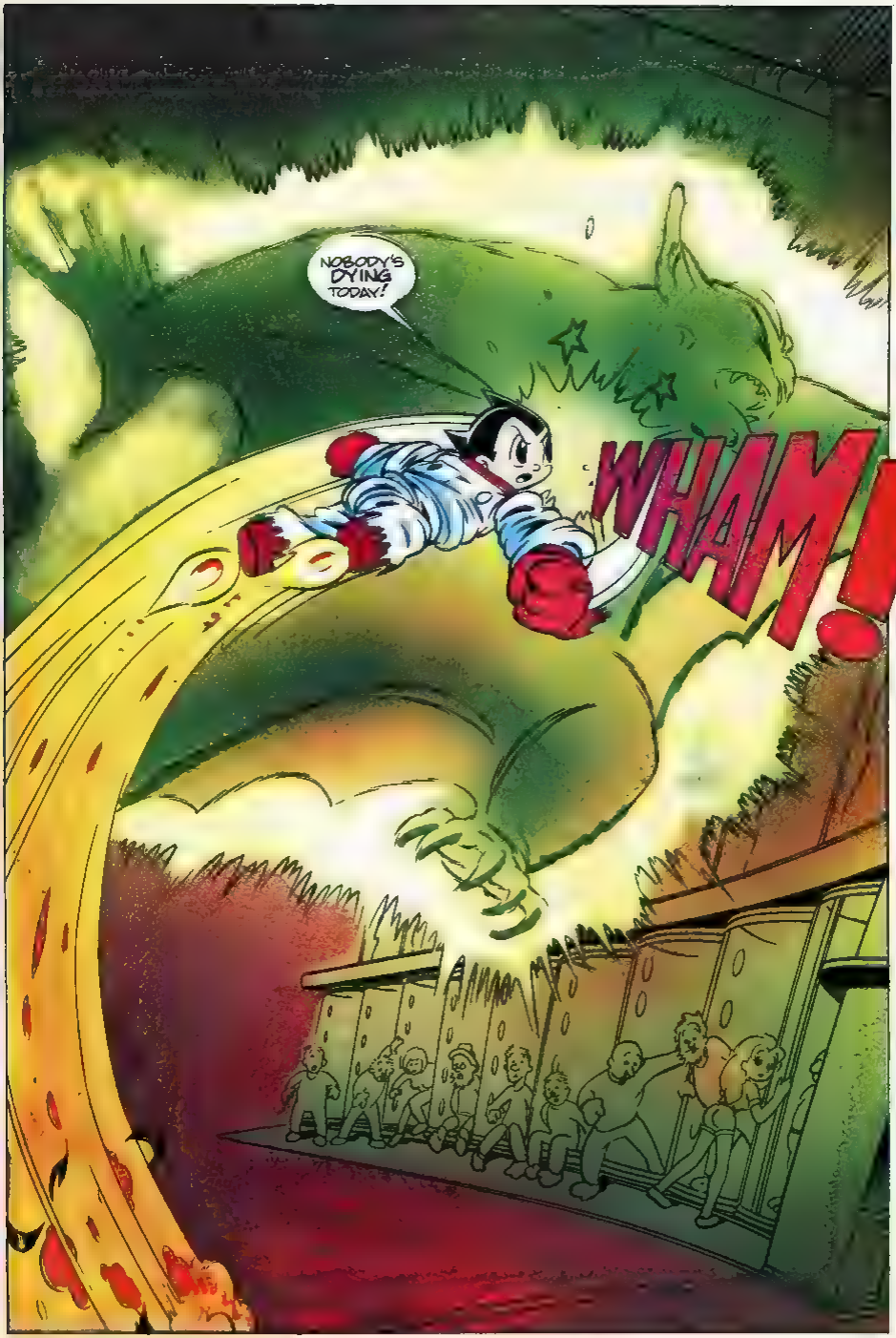

"HE FIGURED OUT HOW TO ACTIVATE SOME OF THE MARTIAN MACHINES."
"BUT HE UNLEASHED SOMETHING ELSE AS WELL."
SOMETHING TERRIBLE THE MONSTER
"IT NETWORKED THROUGH ALL THE OTHER ACTIVE MACHINES. IT EVEN GOT INTO OUR BASE COMPUTERS, LIKE SOME HIDEOUS VIRUS."
WHEN IT HAD BUILT UP ENOUGH ENERGY IT BURST OUT OF THE SYSTEM AND ATTACKED."
"IT SHORTED OUT ALL OUR ROBOTS, AND CAPTURED US"
WHERE IS THIS MONSTER NOW?
B-B !
"IT PUT US IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND EXPERIMENTED ON US."

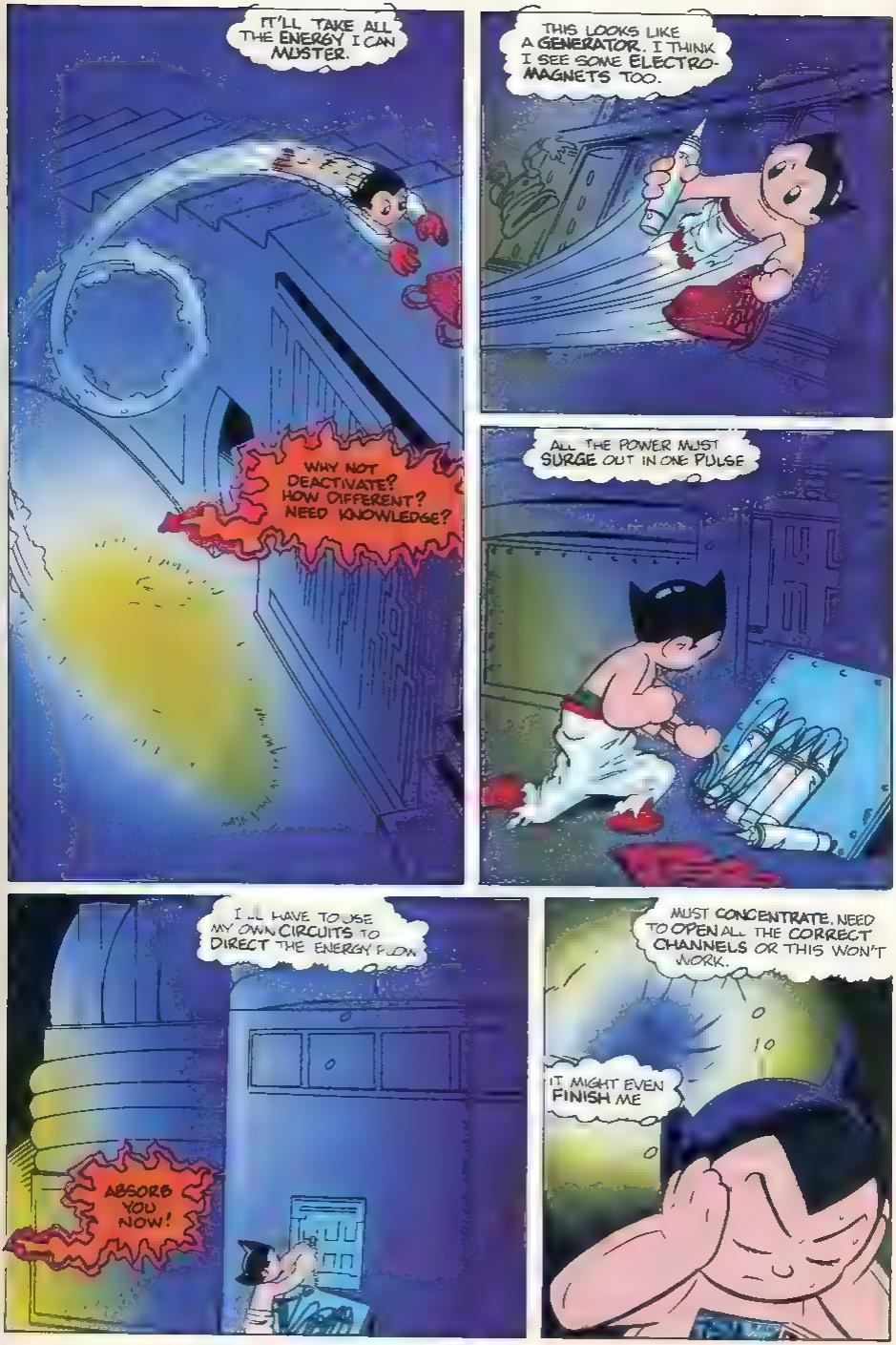
WHY FREE SPECIMENS?
NEED ABSORB MORE KNOWLEDGE FROM SAME.
GET BACK DR. FRANCIS! I'LL PROTECT YOU!


WHY MACHINE-BOY NOT DEACTIVATED?
WAIT! WHY ARE WE FIGHTING?
MACHINE HARMS! NEED KNOWLEDGE FROM SAME.
I NEED SOME INSULATION OR NEXT TIME I'LL BE FRIED.
OUCH!

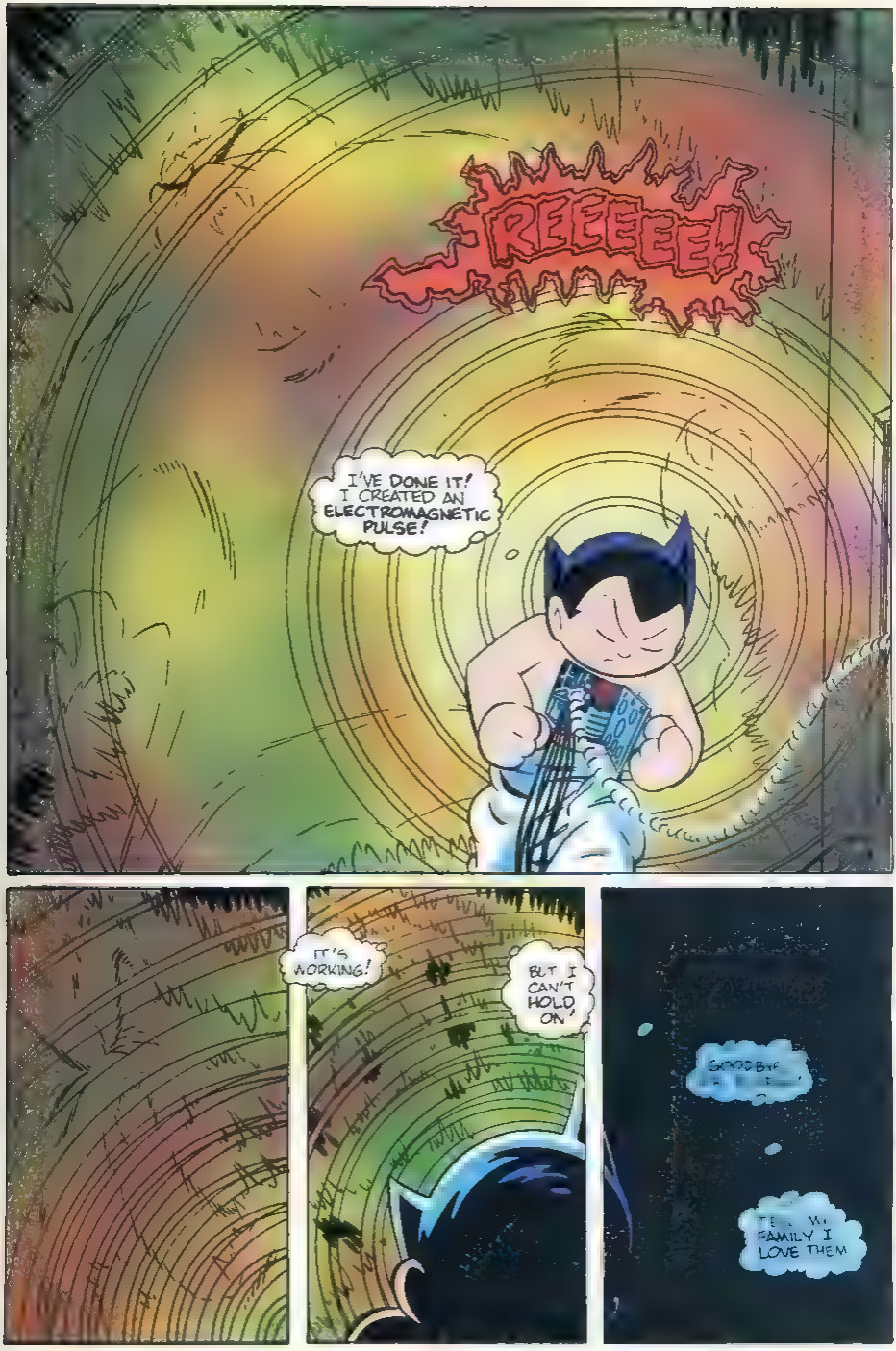
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
AM. MARS! PLANET MINE! YOU INVADE!
AM. PURE THOUGHT... PURE ENERGY! AM ALL MARTIANS.
CREATED AS.. SERVANT. STORED MAGNETICALLY IN GREAT COMPUTERS. SERVED WELL."
WHEN ATMOSPHERE LOST ALL... MARTIANS JOIN WITH ME.
SLEEP LONG. WAIT TO LIVE AGAIN. WAIT FOR KNOWLEDGE.

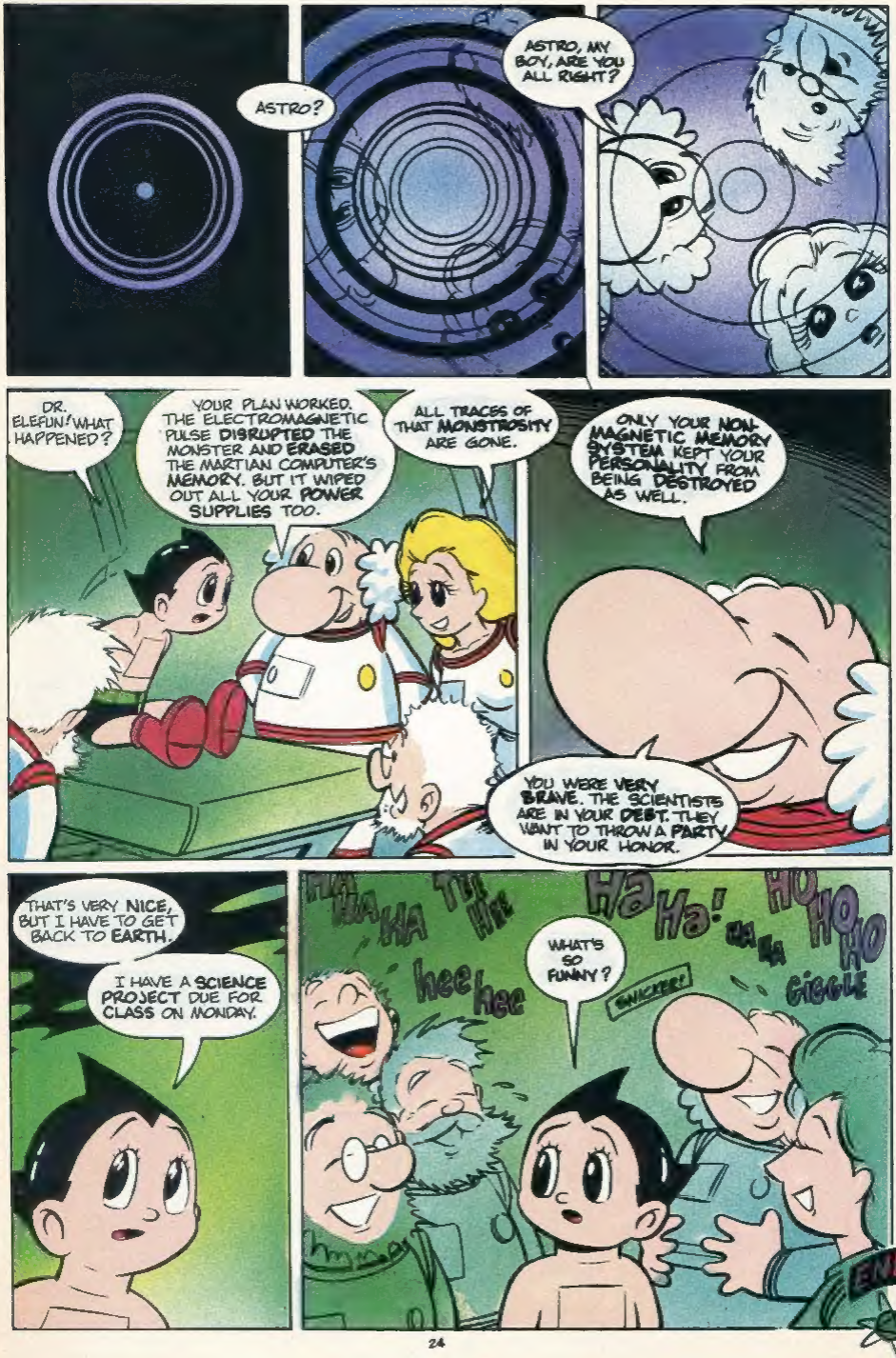

ABSORBED BY FLESH BEINGS. ABSORB THEIR KNOWLEDGE. NOW WILL RULE ... MARS AGAIN!
ABSORB STRANGE MACHINE-BOY THAT DOES NOT DEACTIVATE TOO!
DIE NOW.
UNGH!
MY JETS!
WHY YOU NOT DIE?
THE IMPACT UNCLOGGED THEM!
KA-SHOOM!


NOBODY'S DYING TODAY!
WHAM!


IT'LL TAKE ALL THE ENERGY I CAN MUSTER.
WHY NOT DEACTIVATE? HOW DIFFERENT? NEED KNOWLEDGE?
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GENERATOR. I THINK I SEE SOME ELECTRO-MAGNETS TOO.
ALL THE POWER MUST SURGE OUT IN ONE PULSE
I'LL HAVE TO USE MY OWN CIRCUITS TO DIRECT THE ENERGY FLOW
ABSORB YOU NOW!
MUST CONCENTRATE. NEED TO OPEN ALL THE CORRECT CHANNELS OR THIS WON'T WORK.
IT MIGHT EVEN FINISH ME

ZZZSHOOM!
MY ENERGY'S RUNNING LOW.
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT DID IT SAY ABOUT BEING PURE ENERGY STORED MAGNETICALLY?
IF I CAN JUST STAY OUT OF IT'S WAY.
MAYBE I CAN STOP IT BY SHUTTING DOWN ITS POWER!
LESLIE! GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL BE OKAY.


REEEEE!
I'VE DONE IT! I CREATED AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE!
IT'S WORKING!
BUT I CAN'T HOLD ON!
GOODBYE
TELL MY FAMILY I LOVE THEM


ASTRO?
ASTRO, MY BOY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DR. ELEFUN! WHAT HAPPENED?
YOUR PLAN WORKED. THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISRUPTED THE MONSTER AND ERASED THE MARTIAN COMPUTER'S MEMORY. BUT IT WIPED OUT ALL YOUR POWER SUPPLIES TOO.
ALL TRACES OF THAT MONSTROSITY ARE GONE.
ONLY YOUR NON-MAGNETIC MEMORY SYSTEM KEPT YOUR PERSONALITY FROM BEING DESTROYED AS WELL.
YOU WERE VERY BRAVE. THE SCIENTISTS ARE IN YOUR DEBT. THEY WANT TO THROW A PARTY IN YOUR HONOR.
THAT'S VERY NICE, BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO EARTH.
I HAVE A SCIENCE PROJECT DUE FOR CLASS ON MONDAY.
HA HA HA
HEE HEE
HA HA!
HO HO HO
HA HA
hee hee
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
SNICKER!
GIGGLE
END

ASTRO FANS!

WOW! What a stack of mail! We're getting letters from everywhere--except Mars, maybe. Here's an idea for those readers who've got something to say--we accept postcards, too! Think of it! You can put your two cents in, and still save a dime. That's what I call a bargain!

Dear Astro Boyers:

1. I read in some past issues of Astro Boy that you were having some progress on bringing about the Astro Boy videos form the 1960's. Is there any information about this as yet?

2. Did I miss the Astro Boy graphic novel?

3. How is this for a gimmick; try making Astro's eyes glow red when he gets angry.

4. By far, Astro Boy is the coolest comic book character I have ever read. But just try to get them to the newsstands a bit more quickly, ok?

5. Can you tell me where they sell issues #5 and #14 of Astro Boy? Are they available from you? They are the only ones missing from my collection.

6. Do you think that this would make a good character; this new kid in Astro's school, who actually has thses weird powers, for instance, he can turn himself into a superhero called "negative", who looks like a human shaped cloud of black and shite fog with glowing gold eyes. "Negative" can do things such as shoot anti-matter rays from his hands, and go through solid matter, and fly faster than sound. I think that he would make a good pal for Astro, don't you?

7. Keep up the good work! Astro is a super superhero.

Yours Truly,
Mathew Greenbaum
56 Rose Ave
Great Neck, NY
11021

Boy oh boy, I always wanted to answer one of those letters with a bunch of numbered questions.

1. Yes, the Astro Boy video is coming soon. We'll let you know when it's available.

2. Come in off the ledge, Mathew. That's better. Sorry but there is no graphic novel.

3. This series is not about gimmicks, sir! This series is about thought provoking, inciteful, socially conscious stories. Stories like our recent Christmas special, in which Astro's nose turned red and he helped Santa out of a jam.

4. More quickly? Aaaah! My heart!

5. For back issues of Astro Boy, and all NOW Comics, check your local comics shop.

6. I'll let you off the hook this time. I was going to steal your idea and make Vegas cabbage with it, but I'm going to give it back to you. Next time, you may not be so lucky.

7. I'll try super hard!

PS Mathew, you're the best ten year old typest I've ever come across.

Dear Astro Boy;

I enjoy the Astro Boy comics for many reasons:

1. Because they are just like the cartoons. You guys keep that same magic.

2. I identify with the character, Astro Boy. He has a lot of philosophies on life. He doesn't care about his reputation, he's a misfit of society.

3. When things really go bad for Astro Boy, he doesn't just get all bummed out and sit around depressed, he learns from his mistakes and grows stronger.

Thanks Guys and thanks Astro Boy

Steve Deneen
6664 Pine
Taylor, MI
48180

Astro Boy, a misfit of society? Maybe here and now, but not so much in his world of the future, where robots of all types form a large minority within the population.

Dear Astro Grams,

I wrote to you last year about the good job ya'll did on Astro Boy and Speed Racer. Well! I'm writing to tell ya'll again, and you've finally bought in another good ol' supporting character form the b & w tv series: Astro Girl. Yes! It was good to see Astro Girl get

intorduced way back in issue #14. Getting all of these old characters back together again is like and Astro Boy reunion of 1963. I have about 13 or 15 episodes of the old b & W Astro Boy series, and one has the introduction of Astro Girl (or the origin of Astro Girl.)

You all ought to bring some of the super villains who Astro Boy has fought on the show one time or another, like Satan, the black hearted robot, or something like that, the three roboteers and a few more I can't think of right now.

Now! I would like to see you all bring some more of the other old Japanese cartoons from back then into comics, they are, Prince Planet, Gigantor, Eighth Man, Marine Boy, and Kimba. Astro Boy and Speed Racer have hit good successes, why not bring these into the big time? With all of these seven old Manga Manga tv hit shows of the sizzling sixties, ya'll could have a great success with the big revival of the sixties Manga Manga.

Dwight Boyd
Palo Alto, CA

Congratulations, Mr. Boyd! Your letter has won this month's prize, and original sketch of Astro Boy! Your successful attempt to transfer your authentic accent to the printed page has earned you this much covetted prize. What's your favorite comic book, Dwight?

Dear Tony,

First off, I find it sort of odd for the publisher of a comic company to also do the letters colomn for presumably all its titles. However, it does give the whole line a sense of warmth and family that is almost saccariney (sorry, couldn't help it).

I do wish to thank you for recovering for me those carefree and scarcely sentient days of early childhood, in which I stared blissfully into the television at the niftiest shows ever to appear on the face of this planet. Until only recently have I again had a decent dosage of Speed Racer or Astro Boy. I suggest your next project to be Marine Boy, Space Ghost, Ultra Man, or maybe even Johnny Socko and His Flying Robot (now there's a challenge). I really don't want to pick knits, but didn't they call Astro's sister something other than Astro Girl? Was it Astra? I can't be sure.

Oh, and yes, I did get that bathroom tile joke (in letters, #15), and I wish you wouldn't do it again. It was a running gag at our last convention, and I'm quite sick of it.

Greg Crowe
Professional Bob Veela Impersonator
Baltimore, MD

Glad you appreciate that warm, family feeling.

Now Comics, always the pioneer, is presently experimenting with the idea of having the creative personnel on our books do the letters colomns. Thus, Tony has my second cousin Steve Sullivan on the Racer-X, Katherine Llewellyn on Rust, Evil twin, Marc Hansen on Ralph Snart Adventures, and me right here. You know what they say, you can pick your friends, but...

CAN YOU SURVIVE BATTLING THE BIG BOSS?

Can you face the Double Dragon challenge? The City slum finds you, and your ally Billy, scoring 100 points each time you punch or kick your way through 10 street gang members for a victory. Mission 2, The Industrial Area, allows you to jump to avoid the dynamite thrower but it now takes you 20 hits instead of 10 to defeat your opponent. The danger of Mission 3, The Forest, increases as your enemies not only become smarter, but the scrolling screen advances the savage foes faster and more often. You get aid by jump kicking and picking up any weapon your enemy drops. Mission 4, The Hideout, pits you against Jimmy Lee, The Big Boss. Escape his thugs, and the viscious double bat by moving backwards, swaying back or jumping. Maximum score retained lets you beat your best score but remember! You will be knocked out if your power bar reaches zero as it is dimished every time you are hit so beware! You only have three lives to complete all four missions and save Marion to win!

DOUBLE DRAGON

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